



Info@starklawlibrary.org

Stark County Law Library Association

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BEGINNER

Let's Chat!

The email address, info@starklawlibrary.org really works! TRY IT!!

This month, the Beginner and the Intermediate sections go hand-in-hand, because the chat sessions that are discussed here are used in online CLE seminars, which are the topic of the Intermediate section. In on-line CLE seminars, chat sessions are often used as a replacement for the oral discussions and Q&A sessions that take place during a live CLE seminar.

So, what is a chat? According to the Internet.com's Webopedia, a chat is:

"Real-time communication between two users via computer. Once a chat has been initiated, either user can enter text by typing on the keyboard and the entered text will appear on the other user's monitor. Most networks and online services offer a chat feature."¹

A good place to start chatting is About.com. They have a "Chat Session" just for the newbies.

"Since you're new to the Internet, you may be a little intimidated to enter a Chat Room for the first time (I know I was). But allow me to let you in on a little secret... Chatting is easy and so much fun! And where else can you meet so many new friends

who are just beginning to discover the unlimited potential of the Internet? So come on in! We have scheduled chats on most Mondays and Wednesdays from 9pm to 11pm."²

First, go to <<http://netforbeginners.about.com/internet/netforbeginners/mpchat.htm>> and read their "F.A.Q." section. Then open and print the "How to Chat" section. You will find it very helpful when you are in the chat room for the first time. There are a lot of icons, and that can be a little confusing at first. You might want to go into the chat room alone (during the day is a good time) just to get the feel of it.

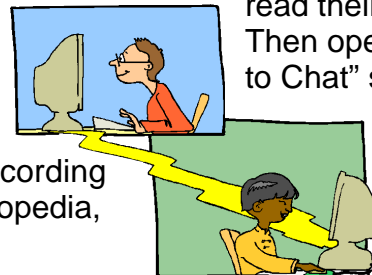
When you are ready, click on "Log on to chat," enter an innocuous nickname and click on "Connect" and you are all set. You may be asked to download an application called Chat Space. It's harmless, I ran a spyware test on it to be sure!

Most chat today is text-only. All you need is your browser and the typing skills that you have been practicing.

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Special points of interest:

- Chat sessions are often used as a replacement for the oral discussions and Q&A sessions that take place during a live CLE seminar
- Practice "chatting" in a beginners room first!
- Use an innocuous nickname, NOT your real name!



INTERMEDIATE

CLE Credits On-Line

Special points of interest:

- Using your computer to earn CLE credit offers many advantages.
- There are several web sites that offer CLEs that are accepted in Ohio.
- If you have any doubt about Ohio's acceptance of the credits, contact the Ohio Supreme Court's Commission on Continuing Legal Education before registering!



The lead story of the "In Practice" section of Lawyers Weekly USA on July 23, 2001 is "More Lawyers Are Earning CLE Credits Via the Internet" by Christa Zevitas.

She points out that the online CLE format allows lawyers to earn credits:

- Any time of day or night.
- From the convenience of their office or home.
- In time increments that fit into their schedule.
- Without the time and expense of travel.
- Without rescheduling court appearances or client appointments.
- With the opportunity to read, download and print as much of the materials as they choose.
- With expanded opportunity for questions and answers.⁴

A few more advantages that she mentions elsewhere in the article include:

- Most online discussion sessions are run by moderators who screen questions
- You can take as much time as you want to formulate your questions
- And submit them anonymously, if you wish

Cost and Contact Information

At present Ohio accepts CLE online credits from the following sites:

Cognistar *

Cost: Call for specifics.

Website: <<http://www.cognistar.com>>

Phone (508) 490-0990 ext. 701

Taecan

Cost: \$25 per credit hour for courses that run from one to six-plus hours.

Website: <<http://taecan.com>>

Phone: (888) 321-3250⁵

TRT, Inc.

Cost: \$60 per course. All courses earn one-hour credit.

Website: <<http://www.trt-cle.com/>>

Phone: 1-800-672-6253 or (703) 779-2006

TRT courses that are listed on the Ohio Supreme Court website include:

Legal Ethics 101R– 104R⁶

Ohio is not on their state list of approved online CLE seminars, so click on California to access them.

If you have reciprocity with other states, you should know that of our neighboring states, Kentucky and West Virginia allow online courses, Indiana does not and Pennsylvania has a proposal pending to allow online courses.⁷

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ADVANCED

Accessibility

“Remember that accessibility is not just good business, it’s also the right thing to do.”

Section 508 of the U.S. Rehabilitation Act of 1998 requires that the web sites of federal agencies be made accessible to people with physical disabilities.

“[A]lthough private web sites are not required to comply with the accessibility standards, they really have an incentive to do so: By creating web sites that are accessible to the disabled, companies will reach a potentially larger audience than if they did not do so.”⁸

According to Greg Lowney, Director of Accessibility for the Microsoft Corporation,

“[I]t’s a way to add tens of millions of potential customers, as well as their friends, their relatives, and their employers. Studies show that each person with a disability has an average of five people who care about them.”⁹

“Remember that accessibility is not just good business, it’s also the right thing to do.”¹⁰

Going beyond website accessibility, if the most productive lawyer in your firm became physically disabled, you would want the tools he or she needed to remain productive!

For excellent information read:

- Jim Lubin’s “Adaptive Computer Products” <<http://www.makoa.org/computers.htm>>

Mr. Lubin is a C2 quadriplegic, completely paralyzed from the neck

down and dependent on a ventilator to breathe. He used a keyboard/mouse emulator with a sip and puff switch to type in morse code. His site is LOADED with resources for the disabled.

- Tom Dahm’s, “Five Steps to Accessible Web Sites” <<http://www.zdnet.com/enterprise/stories/main/0,10228,2781418,00.html>>

Mr. Dahm offers five simple guidelines for making your web site accessible to the disabled, he links to the World Wide Web Consortium’s Web Content Accessibility Guidelines page, and lists four tools for testing your web site to see just how accessible it is.

- “Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)” at: <<http://www.w3.org/WAI/>>

“WAI, in coordination with organizations around the world, pursues accessibility of the Web through five primary areas of work: technology, guidelines, tools, education and outreach, and research and development.”¹¹

- Microsoft’s “Assistive Technology Catalog” at: <<http://www.microsoft.com/enable/products/aids.asp>>

“The catalog records include manufacturer contact information, product name(s), product description, and order instructions (phone, fax, email, and Web). Other links on this page include technical support, accessible documentation, keyboard assistance, research, and free resources, all related to accessibility.”¹²

Read these informative articles to learn more about web site and computer accessibility!

FOOTNOTES

- ¹ "chat." internet.com (Webopedia). 2001 INT Media Group Incorporated. 3 August 2001. <<http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/c/chat.html>>
- ² "Log on to Chat." [Internet For Beginners](http://netforbeginners.about.com). 2001. About.com, Inc. 8 August 2001. <<http://netforbeginners.about.com/mpchat.htm>>
- ³ "Chat." [ZDNet Help & How To](http://www.zdnet.com). 2001. ZD Inc. 8 August 2001. <<http://www.zdnet.com/zdhelp/stories/main/0,5594,2784511,00.html>>
- ⁴ Zevitas, Christa. "More Lawyers Are Earning CLE Credits Via the Internet." [Lawyers Weekly USA](http://www.lawyersweeklyusa.com). 23 July 2001. Page 1
- ^{5&7} Zevitas, Christa. "More Lawyers Are Earning CLE Credits Via the Internet." [Lawyers Weekly USA](http://www.lawyersweeklyusa.com). 23 July 2001. Page 8
- ⁶ "Continuing Legal Education—Approved Activities List." [Commission of Continuing Legal Education](http://www.cleeducation.com). 7 Oct 2001. The Supreme Court of Ohio. <<http://www.sconet.state.oh.us/CCLE/activities/selfstudy/>>
- ⁷ Isenberg, Doug. "Questions and Answers About the U.S. Disability Standards for Web Sites." [GigaLaw.com](http://www.gigalaw.com). June 2001. Dolesco LLC. 10 August 2001. <<http://www.gigalaw.com/articles/2001/isenberg-2001-06b-p4.html>>
- ^{8–10} Lowney, Greg. "Need for Accessibility Design." 29 June 2001. [Microsoft Accessibility Technology for Everyone](http://www.microsoft.com/enable/dev/reasons.htm). 10 August 2001. <<http://www.microsoft.com/enable/dev/reasons.htm>>
- ¹¹ "Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)." [W3C Web Accessibility Initiative](http://www.w3.org). 14 August 2001. W3C (MIT, INRIA, Keio). 17 August 2001. <<http://www.w3.org/WAI/>>
- ¹² "Volume 4 Number 15." [The Naked PC](http://www.thenakedpc.com). 26 July 2001. PRIME Consulting Group, Inc. and Dan Butler. 17 August 2001. <<http://www.thenakedpc.com/backissues/v4i15.html>>

BEGINNERS

Let's Chat! (Continued)

A few words of wisdom — be sure the site has a moderator, check the rules of etiquette of the site, and act like a guest.

Occasionally, you will need to download special chat software. A few words of wisdom — be sure the site has a moderator, check the rules of etiquette of the site, and act like a guest.

If you have a sound card and a microphone for your PC, you might want to try voice chat, which is now available at portal sites like Yahoo! and Excite, as well as a

number of specialty sites. To do this you will probably need to install some free software. In some cases, going to the voice chat area for the first time will initiate the installation (provided you grant permission).

To find scheduled chats on general (non-law) topics of interest to you, try TalkCity at <<http://www.talkcity.com>> or Yahoo! Net Events <<http://events.yahoo.com>>. ³

INTERMEDIATE

CLE Credits On-Line (Continued)

Kentucky and West Virginia accept credits from Practicing Law Institute <<http://pli.edu>> and the American Law Institute's ALI-ABA Direct-to-Desktop CLE courses <<http://www.ali-aba.org>>

* Cognistar lists Ohio in its "Jurisdictions That Grant Credit

for On-line CLE", but it is NOT listed Ohio Supreme Court website.

Call the Ohio Supreme Court (614) 466-1540 before registering.

By Nancy Stinson, MLS
nancy@starklawlibrary.org